Extent

22 folders, approximately 723 pages

Summary

This collection consists of material concerning Laura Tyson and trade between the United States and Japan. She was one of President Clinton’s most trusted economic advisors, serving on the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) from 1993-1995 and on the National Economic Council (NEC) from 1995-1996. The trade imbalance between the United States and Japan was her main focus during this period. Tyson created the “Framework Deal” as the beginning point for all negotiations involving the two countries. Areas of negotiation included autos and auto parts, glass, and semiconductors. The collection contains talking points, correspondence, memoranda, notes, and newspaper articles.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in 2016-1126-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. During the Clinton administration, Laura Tyson spent some time focusing on trade relations between the United States and Japan. Tyson pursued an agenda of equal trading partners, and to that end emphasized the opening up of sectors of the Japanese economy that had been closed to the U.S. This was especially the case with autos and auto parts. There were negotiations over a Framework Agreement between the U.S. and Japan that encompassed not only autos and auto parts but other areas such as glass, insurance, paper, wood building products, distilled spirits, medical equipment, civil aviation, and semiconductors. At a press conference held on April 12, 1996, as a prelude to President Clinton meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto in Tokyo, Tyson and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor emphasized the progress that had been achieved in the Framework Agreement talks. Specifically, Tyson declared that “we find U.S. exports to Japan having grown

over 85 percent since the administration took office in 1993." There are two relevant documents in the White House Office of Records Management (WHORM)- Alpha File. They are letters attesting to the expertise of Tyson on trade issues. In one case she is congratulated by Alexis Herman, an advisor to President Clinton, for addressing the Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). On the other occasion, Tyson receives a personal letter from the Chief Executive for having won the Consumers for World Trade (CWT) award, which is handed out annually, to an individual for demonstrating "dedicated service to the cause of open and competitive world trade." In the White House Office of Records Management (WHORM)-Subject File-General material there are memoranda, correspondence, fax cover sheets, notes, and newspaper articles. Most of these documents seem to be related to a Fed Ex (Federal Express) air cargo dispute between the United States and Japan that took place in 1995-1996 and involved the possibility of punitive sanctions on the part of the Clinton administration. Other subjects include a semiconductor agreement reached due to the efforts of USTR Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky (Kantor's successor) and American rice exports to Japan. In a July 1994 memo addressed to President Clinton, Tyson declares that "California rice has gained acceptance there [i.e. in Japan]. It has sold very well in recent months and is now considered to be of high quality by Japanese consumers." The White House Staff and Office files of Laura Tyson in the Council of Economic Advisors contain lists, memoranda, charts, graphs, cables, correspondence, speeches, reports, papers, talking points, newspaper articles, publications, notes, and briefing papers. Lists principally concern Japanese representatives from the EPA (Economic Planning Agency) slated to meet with their American counterparts in the CEA. A number of unclassified cables from the American Embassy in Tokyo relate to economic and financial developments in Japan in September 1993. "U.S. and Japan: Economic Relations" is the title of a lengthy background paper published in February 1993. The text of a key speech ("U.S.-Japan Relations: A Strategic Framework") given by Senator Bill Bradley on March 22, 1994, runs to eight pages and ends by referring to a "trade policy that works in synch with the ongoing transformation of Japan's economy and politics to achieve results that conform to both our [i.e. American and Japanese] interests." A publication that stands out in the collection, United States-Japan Trade: White Paper, 1993 was published by The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan.

Biographical Note

Laura Tyson, served as the Chair of the CEA (Council of Economic Advisors) from 1993-1995 and Director of the NEC (National Economic Council) from 1995-1996. Tyson graduated summa cum laude from Smith College in 1969 with a major in economics and continued on to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), earning a Ph.D. in the same subject.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that were responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Alpha Files, Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files, and Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Alpha File was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management from 1993-1996 and is a series of documents arranged by name of persons, organization, or events. The WHORM Subject File was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. Clinton Presidential Library’s web site 2016-1126-F http://www.clintonlibrary.gov 3 Staff and Office files are maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas, Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. FOIA 2016-1126-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: [CA] [Civil Aviation] [CO085] [Japan] [TA005] [Trade Agreements]

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act.

Person Names

Tyson, Laura D'Andrea, 1947-

Organization Names

Council of Economic Advisers (U.S.)

Geographic Place

Japan

Topical Subjects

Commerce

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2017. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2017-05-30

Container List

View all digitized files in the National Archives Catalog (NAC)

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to 2016-1126-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Alpha Files
Tyson, Laura D. [May 19, 1995] [OA/ID 16335]
Tyson, Laura D. [October 2, 1995] [OA/ID 16335]
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject Files
Category Case Number
CA 113366SS
CO085 069343SS
117315SS
174556SS
175967SS
179606SS

181364SS
196226SS
TA005 016862SS
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Council of Economic Advisors
Tyson, Laura D’Andrea
EPA [Economic Planning Agency] – Japan [OA/ID 5059]
Japan [1] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan [2] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan [3] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan [4] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan [5] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan Trade [1] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan Trade [2] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan Trade [3] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan Trade Relations Framework (U.S.) [1] [OA/ID 5059]
Japan Trade Relations Framework (U.S

Content Available Online